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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 16 | Humidity 77% Mainly Clear sky Sensex 76,171 | Nifty 23,045 | Gold 86,670 | Silver 99,500 | Dollar 86.89 | Euro 89.57 | GBP 108.07

Spelling mistake

CITY PAGE 4

Despite flagging encroachment on Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake buffer zone, no action taken, officials use typos to shirk responsibility

Famous five

CITY PAGE 6

Result of discussions on report recommending creation of five municipal corporations in city likely to be out soon

Organised cartels see women as 'safe' carriers since they are less likely to be stopped and frisked, especially in public places, say police officials as woman smuggler nabbed recently

WOMEN IN THE RED

Operation Narcos going on at railway stations records 16 cases this year

Atiya Firdos
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The role of women in drug peddling is growing at an alarming rate, raising concerns about how cartels are using them to smuggle narcotics to avoid police scrutiny. Recent cases in Bengaluru reveal that drug networks are deliberately recruiting women. Women are not just being used as transporters but are also being strategically used at multiple levels, from sourcing to distribution, often without their full awareness of the gravity of the crime.

Under 'Operation Narcos', a 26-year-old woman named Durga was apprehended at SMVT Railway Station while attempting to smuggle 8.37 kg of ganja.

The operation was carried out by a joint team from the Divisional Special Team (DST) and Crime Intelligence Branch (CIB), who, acting on a tip-off, conducted an inspection of the Humsafar Express with assistance from a dog squad. Upon the train's arrival at SMVT Railway Station, the team observed a woman disembarking from the AC coach and heading toward the parcel office in a suspicious manner. Her identity was confirmed through sources, prompting the team to swiftly detain her. During questioning, she appeared nervous and failed to provide a satisfactory explanation about her identity and the contents of her bags, further raising suspicions.

She was subsequently handed over to Government Railway Police, Baiyappanahalli, and a case was registered under the NDPS Act.

As part of 'Operation Narcos,' the RPF and its teams have detected 24 cases and arrested 16 individuals in 2024. As of February 12, they have registered 16 cases this year, leading to the arrest of eight accused persons.

In similar cases including

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> "Many of them are unaware of the serious legal consequences until they get caught. Many of these women are first-time offenders who don't fully realise the gravity of their actions —Police officer

SILENT TREATMENT

BBMP & state pollution board fail to respond to repeated queries on defunct sewage treatment plants at 15 lakes

Garima Prasher
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Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) have chosen to remain mere spectators as the city's water bodies continue to suffer.

Both the agencies have failed to investigate defunct sewage treatment plants (STPs) at 15 lakes in Bengaluru and submit an action taken report to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), despite multiple directions issued by the Board over the last couple of months.

"CPCB regional directorate forwarded a copy of the newspaper article to KSPCB and BBMP and requested an investigation and appropriate action against violators. The status report/action taken report on the matter in response to letters from CPCB (on September 20, 2024, and January 27, 2025) is still awaited from the authorities concerned," said a report filed by CPCB.

The central pollution watchdog had sought the report from BBMP and KSPCB after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) registered a suo motu case based on a news article published in Bangalore Mirror on September 16, 2024.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Sacred space

A weekly journey into self-discovery and spiritual growth. Join us for insightful teachings, interactive discussions, and expert-guided sessions to connect with your true self. **Where: Urban Solace; When: Every Sunday, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm**

02 Laugh out loud

Don't miss this hilarious Kannada comedy, 'Pukkate Salahe', a satire on astrology TV shows, written by H Dundiraj. Enjoy diverse dialects, lively music, and sharp humour. Directed by Ashok B **Where: Dr C Aswath Kala Bhavana, NR colony (Basavanagudi); When: February 16, 6.00pm**

03 Teddy bear show

Nexus Shantiniketan Mall presents an extraordinary 13ft life-size Teddy Bear installation, offering the perfect photo opportunity for visitors. This enchanting display is part of the mall's Gifting Promotion Campaign. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall; When: Ongoing until February 28**

04 Love feast

Experience a romantic evening with three unique dining options for couples to celebrate love and create lasting memories. **Where: Double Tree Suites by Hilton; When: February 14, 6.00 pm**

05 Ghazal night

Enjoy an evening of love and timeless melodies with Kavita Seth, renowned Sufi artiste, performing soulful ghazals and romantic classics.. **Where: The Leela Palace; When: February 15, 9.00 pm**

06 Musical night

Learn to transcribe Indian Music notations to Western Music with renowned Karnatak Violinist Dr. Jyotsna Srikanth. Ideal for both Indian and Western music students. **Where: Indian Music Experience Museum; When: February 16, 11.00 am**

07 Voice of change

Explore the legacy of Dalit poet and activist Kotiganahalli Ramaiah, known for his songs of resistance and work in theatre, film, and education. **Where: Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts; When: February 15, 11.00 am to 6.30 pm**

Graduation Day

St Joseph's PU College held its Graduation Day on February 12 at St Joseph's Boys High School ground, with Chief Guest MN Anucheth, IPS, and Rev Dr Daniel Fernandes, SJ, presiding.

K'taka yet to appoint forest dept head, experts worried

Without permanent principal chief conservator, state's forests face administration lapses, minister, CM told

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A wildlife conservationist has urged Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre to expedite the appointment of a permanent head for the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), expressing concerns that the absence of a dedicated leader could hamper forest and wildlife conservation efforts.

Currently, the Karnataka Chief Wildlife Warden is holding additional charge as the Head of Forest Force (HoFF), as the state has not appointed a permanent Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and HoFF. Conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni, in a letter to the government, highlighted the importance of both roles in ensuring the efficient administration of forests and wildlife in Karnataka.

"The government has not appointed a permanent PCCF and HoFF. Instead, the PCCF (Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden has been given an additional charge for almost two weeks, which is unfortunate. These posts are like the two eyes of the Forest Department. In the interest of forest and wildlife conservation, the appointment of a HoFF should be made at the earliest," Kulkarni stated in his letter.

The PCCF and HoFF play a crucial role in overseeing the

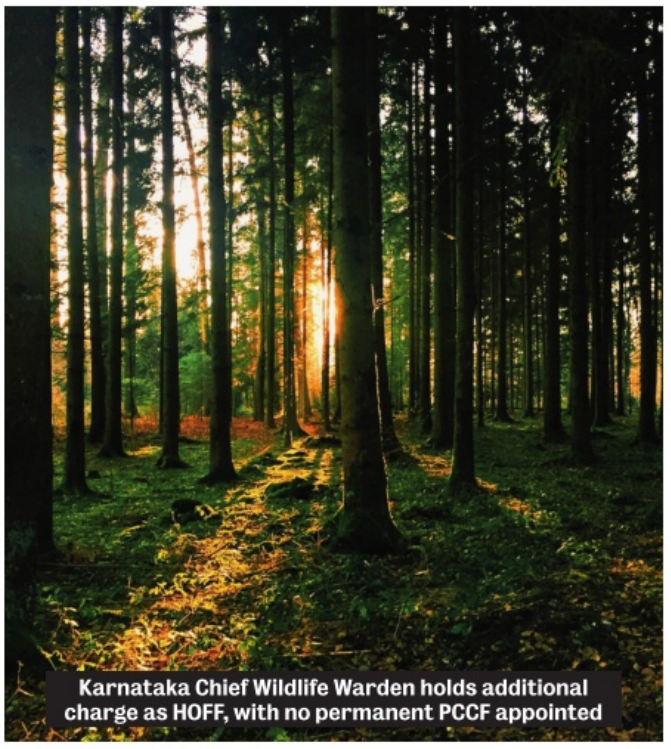
> **"These posts are two eyes of dept. In interest wildlife conservation, the appointment of a HOFF should be made soon**
> – Giridhar K, conservationist

administration of the Forest Department. They are responsible for key matters such as forest policy, budget and finance, internal audits, accounts, and forest lands. Additionally, they serve as the principal advisor to the state government on forestry and wildlife issues and oversee the implementation of various forest and wildlife-related acts and rules.

Similarly, the PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden are tasked with managing wildlife areas, including tiger reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and conservation reserves. The Chief Wildlife Warden also provides guidance for the management of community reserves.

Kulkarni pointed out that both positions carry immense responsibilities, particularly with the state's annual budget schedule approaching. The upcoming summer season is also expected to bring challenges such as forest fires and human-wildlife conflicts.

"Given the workload and pressure associated with these roles, it is not appropriate to overburden the Chief Wildlife Warden with additional responsibilities. This could impede forest and wildlife conservation efforts in the coming months," he noted in his request.



Karnataka Chief Wildlife Warden holds additional charge as HOFF, with no permanent PCCF appointed

Rising cannabis use among youth, health risks underlined

New digital learning tool, Pre-Curb aims to edcuate young people on cannabis risks, impacts, legal aspects, promoting responsible choices

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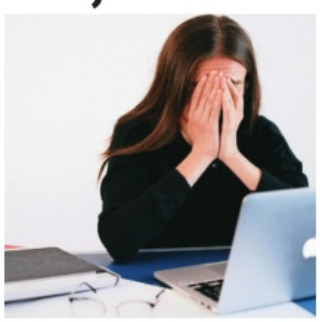
The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has launched Pre-CURB, a digital learning resource designed to educate young people on the dangers of cannabis use and the importance of making responsible choices.

Pre-Curb, developed by Dr Kannan K from the College of Nursing under the guidance of Dr Prasanthi Nattala, Professor and Head of the Department of Nursing, along with Dr Jayant Mahadevan, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, and Dr Meena KS, Professor and Head of the Department of Mental Health Education, aims to dispel misconceptions about cannabis and its impact on health.

The rising use of cannabis products, in conjunction with a lowered perception of risk, makes young people particularly vulnerable to its harmful effects. Pre-CURB highlights the adverse health effects of cannabis, dispels misconceptions about its use, provides updates on the legal status of cannabis in India, and offers guidance on how young people can avoid cannabis use while practicing a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

The launch of Pre-CURB was part of a two-day health and wellness workshop organised by the Department of Nursing at NIMHANS on February 10 and 11. In collaboration with the Department of Mental Health Education, College of Nursing,



and Clinical Nursing Services, the workshop aimed to help college students adopt a healthier lifestyle. The event was inaugurated by Dr Pratima Murthy, Director of NIMHANS, along with Dr Muralidharan K, Medical Superintendent, and Sri Harsha AH, Registrar of NIMHANS.

For college students, maintaining good physical and mental health is crucial. Academic pressure, long study hours, irregular sleep, unhealthy eating habits, and stress can take a toll on their well-being. Poor health can lead to fatigue, lack of concentration, and even long-term illnesses. It is essential for students to establish a balanced routine that includes exercise, proper nutrition, and mental relaxation.

Workshops help students understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle and provide them with practical tools to manage stress, improve sleep, and prevent common health issues. During the workshop, experts conducted interactive sessions on topics such as stress management, physical fitness, healthy eating, sleep hygiene, and the prevention of lifestyle diseases. Students were also introduced to Information-Education-Communication (IEC) resources at NIMHANS, which will help them raise awareness about health in their communities.

Workshops like these help students learn how to take better care of themselves, make informed health decisions, and develop habits that will benefit them in the long run, ensuring that young people lead healthier, more responsible lives.

Sky gazers

Surya Kiran demonstrates flying display with tri colours at the Aero India Show on Wednesday at Yelahanka Airforce station

Who is calling? Man posing as Lokayukta officer

A complaint has been filed with the Karnataka Lokayukta regarding an unknown individual impersonating a Lokayukta official and making threatening calls to government officers. The petitioner, Basavaraju R Magadam, Deputy Superintendent of Police, reported that the imposter contacted multiple officials from a mobile number.

The accused allegedly posed as a Lokayukta officer and warned officials that they would be booked for illegally amassing wealth unless they cooperated. The caller's intention appeared to be coercing officials into avoiding a fabricated case.

Using a phone number verification app, it was revealed that the number had been falsely labeled as belonging to a Lokayukta DSP. Further investigation on January 23, traced the live location of the number to Sheerol, Maharashtra.

SSLC student jumps to death

A 15-year-old SSLC student, identified as Avantika Chaurasia, ended her life by jumping from the 20th floor of her apartment building in Kadugodi on Tuesday.

The student used to live in Assets Mark Apartment within the Kadugodi Police Station limits, along with her family, who are originally from Uttar Pradesh. Her father is an engineer, while her mother is a homemaker. She also has a younger sister currently studying in 2nd standard.

Initial findings indicate that academic pressure could have been a contributing factor in the incident. According to police officials, Avantika's parents had encouraged her to focus on her studies as her SSLC board exams were nearing, which may have upset her. Following this, she locked herself in her room in distress before jumping out of the window.

Rapper found dead at apartment

A rapper from Odisha, Abhinav Singh, who was working as an engineer in Bengaluru, was found dead in his apartment in Kadubeesanahalli. The 32-year-old reportedly consumed poison on February 9, but the incident came to light only later. According to the police, Singh had hosted a party at his flat on Sunday night. After his friends left, he allegedly took his own life. The Marathahalli police have registered a case of unnatural death and have inspected the apartment. However, no suicide note was found.

His family has alleged that Abhinav was facing harassment from his wife, which may have led to the suicide. Meanwhile, sources revealed that a case has been registered against Abhinav's wife in Odisha, and authorities there have initiated an investigation.

Man sentenced to life for disabled shopkeeper's murder

The 68th CCH court has sentenced a man from Madiwala to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹50,000 for murdering a disabled shopkeeper over a dispute regarding free mobile currency.

Miffed with her relationship, man allegedly drowns daughter

A man allegedly pushed his daughter into a lake, resulting in her death, in Huskur village in Anekal. The 20-year-old Sahana was allegedly murdered by Ramamurthy as he disapproved of her relationship with a young man. According to reports, Ramamurthy and Sahana were riding a bike when they fell into the lake. While the father managed to swim to safety, he did not attempt to rescue his daughter. His actions raised suspicions, so officials are investigating if it was an honour killing.

Sahana had been in a relationship with Nithin for over a year, which her family recently discovered. Ramamurthy allegedly expressed strong opposition. In an effort to resolve the issue, Nithin and his mother visited Sahana's family at Ramamurthy's invitation. But, during the discussion Ramamurthy is said have attacked his daughter. Following the altercation, Ramamurthy left the house, and hours later, disturbing allegations emerged that he had drowned his daughter in the nearby lake.

CRIME FILES

The incident took place on March 5, 2016, around 10 pm, under the jurisdiction of Madiwala police station. The victim, Mohammed Nasiruddin, used to run a mobile shop and the accused Aman Ullah used to visit the shop to recharge his phone. Nasiruddin had refused to give a free recharge which led to the argument.

In a fit of rage, Aman Ullah stabbed Nasiruddin 24 times in the head and chest before fleeing the scene. After years of legal proceedings, the court found Aman Ullah guilty.

Labourer injured in soil collapse

A 50-year-old labourer was injured after loose soil near the neighbouring building's compound collapsed onto his leg near Netkallappa Circle under Basavanagudi police station limits on Wednesday.

The injured man, identified as Sharanappa, hails from Yadgir. According to the police, the workers were digging mud for the foundation of a new building when excessive excavation caused the adjacent soil to loosen and cave in, trapping one of them. The injured man was rescued by the police after they received an alert via a 112 emergency call.

Brawl ends in murder

A heated argument between two friends took a tragic turn when Jagadish (40) was killed by Siddesh (40) in Singasandra, Hosur Service Road, under Parappana Agrahara police station limits.

Both individuals were employees at a hotel near Singasandra. On the night of the incident, a dispute escalated into a physical altercation. In a fit of rage, Siddesh fatally attacked Jagadish by striking him with a stone.

-BMB

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Yele Malappa Shetty Lake hoarding row escalates

Revenue officials under fire for inaction as activist approaches court to remove illegal lake structures; fake permission letter adds to growing encroachment controversy

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If the encroachment case of Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake's buffer zone is any indication, it seems the revenue officials and minor irrigation department engineers have forgotten their duty to protect water bodies from land grabbers. Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake is one of many lakes that have been encroached upon without restriction.

It's not that lake activists haven't raised the issue with the concerned authorities. They have, but officials failed either to stop the installation of hoardings or to remove them until an activist approached the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Special Court.

BM had earlier published a story 'Hoarding Lake Land' on April 22, 2024, detailing how the construction of a steel hoarding in the Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake area near Medahalli had sparked criticism from residents and lake activists.

Social activist Paramesh V approached the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Special Court, seeking directions for revenue officials to clear the encroachments on the lake's buffer zone. Following the court's directive, the Bengaluru East Tahsildar decided to remove the steel hoardings installed on lake land.

A metal frame of a hoarding at the buffer zone of Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake

Typos

The Tahsildar wrote to the Avalahalli Police Inspector on February 1, 2025, requesting police protection for the workers and revenue officials assigned to remove the hoardings. However, in a glaring error, the letter incorrectly mentioned February 6, 2024, as the date for the anti-encroachment drive at Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake. The same mistake was repeated in another letter sent to the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Special Court judge on February 3, 2025, in which the Tahsildar sought more time to remove the hoarding bearing the 'Avant Twilight' board.

Criticism

Lake activists and residents are not happy with Tahsildar's lacklustre attitude. They want the revenue officials and minor irrigation engineers to take measures. "It is the responsibility of the revenue officials and minor irrigation engineers to prevent the encroachment of lake land. I had no choice but to approach the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Special Court to push the authorities into action. I have wasted my time and money just to make them do their job," said Paramesh V.

> **I had no choice but to approach the Special Court to push the authorities into action. I have wasted my time and money just to make them do their job**
>
> –Paramesh V, activist

Demanding the authorities to clear the encroachment, Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, said that he had raised the issue at the time of installing the hoarding but the authorities did not take measures to stop the installation of the hoardings.

Fake letter

The lake activists came across a copy of a permission letter issued by the Avalahalli Panchayat Development Officer to the people who installed the hoardings. The letter has no date or name of the applicant. "Avalahalli Panchayat Development Officer said that he did not issue any letter. It is a fake letter," said Paramesh.

Dump no more: Volunteers transform underpass with art and cleanup

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More than 200 volunteers from Youth For Parivarthan, in collaboration with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), came together to clean and restore a long-neglected 200-metre stretch at Kadirenahalli Underpass in Bengaluru South. Once filled with garbage and construction debris, the space has now been turned into an inspiring tribute to some of India's greatest visionaries.

The underpass had been in a poor state for years, with garbage piling up and debris blocking the footpath, forcing pedestrians onto the busy road. "This space was not just dirty but also unusable for people walking by. The footpath was covered in waste, forcing pedestrians onto the busy road, which was dangerous," said a local. Volunteers took on the task of clearing mounds of waste, repainting the walls, and restoring the footpath pedestals, making the area safer and more accessible.

Amith Amarnath, President of YFP, said, "One of the key highlights of the transformation is the series of portraits painted on the underpass walls,

Once a dump yard, the space now stands as a tribute to India's great visionaries

featuring some of India's most influential personalities. These include HH Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, Sir M Visvesvaraya, Dr Rajkumar, Kuvempu, Da Ra Bendre, Swami Vivekananda, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Shankar Nag, and Dr BR Ambedkar. These icons represent the values we aspire to—hard work, courage, innovation, and service to society. By turning this neglected space into a tribute wall, we hope to inspire people every day."

The collaboration between volunteers, civic authorities, and corporate partners highlighted the impact of community-led projects in improving urban spaces.

Residents welcomed the transformation, appreciating the effort to restore not just the underpass but also civic pride. "We've been living here for years, and this area has been completely ignored. It's amazing to see such a positive change," said a local shopkeeper. "These portraits are not just art; they are a reminder of the ideals and values these icons stood for. This is the power of community action, and together, we can reclaim our public spaces," he added.

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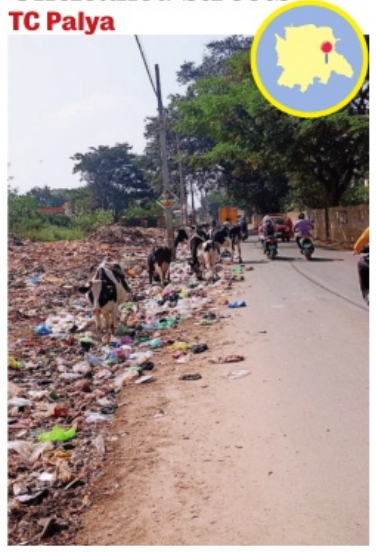
TC Palya



The stretch between Mother Teresa School and Baldwin School, TC Palya, remains uncleaned, with no action taken by BBMP.

Abandoned vehicle

MM Layout

An outstation car has been abandoned for years on 1st Main Road, MM Layout, Kavalbyrasandra, occupying both pavement and road space.

Footpath blocked

Marenahalli

At Marenahalli Signal, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, the footpath near Andhra Ruchulu restaurant has been illegally encroached, forcing pedestrians onto the road and increasing safety concerns.

All smoke and mirrors: Students voice outrage

Nearly 100 students of Acharya College of Nursing protest, claiming institute operating without registration it had claimed it has

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Over a 100 students staged a protest in front of Acharya College of Nursing in RT Nagar on Wednesday, alleging fraudulent practices by the college management. The students, holding placards and refusing to attend classes, claimed that they had been misled into paying hefty fees for admissions under false pretenses.

The protesting students revealed that Acharya College of Nursing, which is affiliated with Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), had falsely claimed to have registration with the Indian Nursing Council (INC). According to the students, the college has been operating without an INC recognition since 2020, leaving past and present students ineligible for nursing jobs or further studies.

"We were given admission with the management assuring us that the college had INC registration. But in reality, they shared fake documents and misled us into paying between ₹1 lakh to ₹4 lakh per year. The total amount collected runs into several crores of rupees," a student protester said.

According to the students, the previous batch had graduated without INC registration, leaving them without job prospects. They also alleged that when the current students confronted the management, the college resorted to threats and harassment instead of addressing their concerns.

Addressing the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of External Affairs, and legal authorities, the students have filed a formal complaint against the college and its management. The complaint includes Dr B Vijaypal Reddy, Chairman, Acharya Bangalore Business School (ABBS), B Poornima Reddy, Managing Director, Ajithes Basani, Executive Director, ABBS, Dr Mahendran P, Campus Director, Acharya Institute of Health Sciences, amongst others.

> **"During admission, the management assured us that the college had INC registration. But they had shared fake documents**
> – Student protester

"They are jeopardising our future. We are not in school; we are pursuing a graduation degree. In just eight to nine months, we will be completing our course. If we fail, what is the point? Our entire future will be ruined," another student protest stated, expressing their frustration. Through the protest, the students seek immediate legal intervention and demand action against the college authorities for violating RGUHS guidelines and the Indian Penal Code. Bangalore Mirror tried reaching out to the college management but they remained unresponsive.

V-Day boost to business

Valentine's Day isn't just eagerly awaited by couples—it's also a golden opportunity for businesses in Bengaluru. As February 14 approaches, sales are soaring for chocolatiers, florists, and gift shops, making this one of their busiest times of the year. "Valentine's Week is when we sell over 100 to 150 bouquets a day, compared to just 30 to 40 on regular days. The demand has even doubled the price of roses," says Arvind Kumar, a roadside flower vendor, stressing how crucial this season is for small businesses like his.

Soft toy sellers are also witnessing a surge in sales. Kamal, a street-side vendor, stays on late to cater to last-minute shoppers. "Heart-shaped pillows and red teddy bears are our bestsellers," he shares, adding that the increased earnings allow him to do something special for his family. With each passing day of Valentine's Week, small business owners work tirelessly to make every romantic gesture possible. From sleepless nights to extra effort, their dedication ensures that love isn't just celebrated—it also fuels a thriving local economy. — BMB

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Officials in no rush as drain woes drag on for six months

Residents of Munireddy Layout are struggling with overflowing drain, safety hazards, while BBMP & KSPCB remain unresponsive despite multiple complaints

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Residents of Munireddy Layout near Doddakallasandra on Kanakapura Road have been facing many problems due to the overflowing of dirty water from the drain onto the road. They are struggling to cope with bad odours emanating from stagnated dirty water. They said that they are compelled to walk on the road due to clogged drains and missing concrete slabs, thus making them vulnerable to road accidents.

"Dirty water has been overflowing onto the road from the roadside drain for the last six months. We have been running pillar-to-post all these days, but nothing has been done to fix this problem. We have also approached Bengaluru South MLA M Krishnappa to narrate the problem. He has assured to direct the authorities concerned to attend to the problem," said HA Chandrasekhar, Joint Secretary of Munireddy Layout Residents' Welfare Association.

Emphasising the need to fix the problem as early as possible for the welfare of pedestrians, Venkatesh N, President of Munireddy Layout Residents' Welfare Association, said that he has already complained to the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) authorities and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) authorities on letting dirty water into the drain by some unscrupulous elements. "With no positive response from the BBMP and the KSPCB authorities, I engaged some private people to remove silt from the drain, which is clogged with garbage and silt. I suspect dirty water is entering the drain from a nearby shopping mall. We have been suffering a lot due to overflow of dirty water onto the road during the last six months," said Venkatesh.

Residents face foul odours, clogged drains and accident risks

> **"With no positive response from BBMP and KSPCB authorities, I engaged some private people to remove silt from the clogged drain**
> –Venkatesh N, RWA

He said the KSPCB Environmental Engineer had assured him to visit the spot. "We want the authorities to find a permanent solution for this problem. We want the KSPCB and the BBMP authorities to penalise people responsible for letting dirty water into the drain," he said.

When contacted, the KSPCB environmental engineer said that he had received a complaint from the residents about some people letting dirty water into the drain. "I will visit the spot," the Environmental Engineer said.

Meanwhile, the BBMP Health Inspector said that maintenance of the roadside drain comes under the ward engineer's jurisdiction. "A few residents have informed me about dirty water overflowing. I will inform the ward engineer," he said.

Women sneaked in at all levels in drug trade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

women as peddlers, just last month, Bengaluru police arrested a 32-year-old woman near KR Market with 10 kg of marijuana. Investigators found that she was part of an interstate drug network, acting as an intermediary between suppliers in Andhra Pradesh and buyers in the city. Police believe she was chosen because she could travel unnoticed and avoid suspicion.

The trend isn't new. In December 2024, a 40-year-old Nigerian woman was arrested in TC Palya with 12 kg of MDMA, one of the largest drug seizures in Bengaluru, worth approximately ₹24 crore. She had been living in the city for five years on an expired visa and was running a shop, which allegedly doubled as a front for drug distribution.

Women as 'safe' carriers

Authorities say organised cartels see women as 'safe' carriers since they are less likely to be stopped and frisked, especially in public places like railway stations and bus terminals. Many of these women are lured into the trade with promises of easy money, while others are forced into it due to financial struggles. Recent cases suggest that women are not just transporters but are being strategically used at multiple levels, and are not entirely aware of the gravity of the crime.

A senior police official stated, "Drug syndicates are using women because they can transport narcotics with lower chances of being checked. Many of them are unaware of the serious legal consequences until they get caught. In fact, many of these women are first-time offenders who don't fully realise the gravity of their actions." He said stronger awareness campaigns and support systems may be useful to stop them from being exploited by drug cartels.

Socio-economic factors, such as financial hardships and limited employment opportunities, are observed in recent cases and could also be contributing to this trend. Law enforcement agencies are intensifying their efforts to address this issue, but the involvement of women presents new challenges in combating the narcotics trade.

Greater B'luru Bill: Review panel seeks public opinion

Will the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike be split into five administrative units?

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

A joint legislative committee, chaired by MLA Rizwan Arshad, has held public discussions on a report recommending major administrative reforms in Bengaluru. The report, a part of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, proposes the creation of five municipal corporations, the inclusion of peripheral areas, and the division of the city into 500 wards. The final report is expected to be submitted to the state government soon.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar introduced the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, in the Legislative Assembly last July. However, the bill faced strong resistance from the opposition. As a result, a 14-member legislative review committee was formed to examine the bill.

SC to hear BBMP election case on February 25

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear petitions related to the BBMP elections on February 25. In the meantime, the legislative committee is conducting meetings to gather public opinion on the proposed Greater Bengaluru Authority, with the aim of submitting its report to the government soon.

BJP criticises inclusion of peripheral areas

During its tenure, the previous government, led by the BJP, had increased the number of BBMP wards from 198 to 243 through a government notification. It had also planned to restructure wards and include areas within a one-kilometre radius of the BBMP limits. However, the plan was later abandoned. After the Congress government came to power, the number of wards was finalised at 225. Additionally, a BBMP restructuring committee was formed to review and finalise the changes, following which the draft Greater Bengaluru Bill was submitted to the legislative committee.

Greater Bengaluru Bill proposes 5 corporations and 500 wards

Sources said that the joint legislative committee is expected to recommend the inclusion of additional areas as part of Greater Bengaluru. The proposed governance model will consist of three tiers: the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), municipal corporations, and ward committees. Key civic bodies such as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) will be brought under the GBA.

Restructuring BBMP: A long-term plan

Sources also stated that the BBMP restructuring committee, headed by former Chief Secretary BS Patil, had proposed creating up to 10 municipal corporations and dividing the city into 400 wards. The legislative review committee is now expected to recommend the formation of five corporations. The plan proposes one corporation for every 3 million residents, with ward limits set between 100 and 125 per corporation.

Mayoral term limited to 30 months

The draft Greater Bengaluru Bill initially recommended a five-year term for mayors and deputy mayors. However, the legislative committee now suggests reducing this to 30 months. The proposal aims to ensure rotational leadership, allowing at least four members to serve as mayor or deputy mayor during a five-year period. Additionally, a no-confidence motion against the mayor will not be permitted for the first 15 months, and reservations will be determined on a rotational basis.

Illegal mining: Forest officers accused, not witnesses, rules HC

23 officers have admitted to signing blank permits and giving them to accused, court says

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the special court to issue a fresh ruling on an application by a retired deputy conservator of forests, who is accused in an illegal mining case involving former Minister G Janardhana Reddy. The application seeks to reclassify 23 forest officers as "accused" rather than "prosecution witnesses".

The court stated, "A person cannot be in a position of prosecution witness if he is particeps criminis [one who takes part in a crime], except in accordance with law."

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the order following a petition by S Muthaiah, 68, accused number 4 in the case. The petitioner challenged the special court's January 6, 2025, decision to reject his request for treating 23 Forest Department officials as "accused" under Section 319 of the Cr.PC.

The petitioner argued that these 23 officers, having admitted guilt, should not be considered "witnesses" by either the CBI or the special court.

The High Court observed that these officers provided statements to the CBI under Section 161 of the Cr.PC and subsequently recorded voluntary statements under Section 164 before a magistrate. They admitted to signing blank forest permits and giving them to accused persons, who used these permits for illegal iron ore transportation.

The High Court noted that in the permits signed by the 23 officers listed as "prosecution witnesses", spaces for timber description and permit recipient details were left blank. The petitioner faces similar charges regarding blank permit issuance.

The High Court deemed the special court's decision misguided, noting that the 23 officers are "witnesses" who participated in the crime by admitting to signing blank permits.

The High Court emphasised that an accused person cannot serve as a prosecution witness, and those who admit guilt cannot escape punishment merely by being listed as witnesses. The court concluded that the special court should reconsider the petitioner's application.

BIFFes to open on March 1

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The 16th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on March 1. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar and renowned film personalities will attend the event. The opening ceremony will take place in front of Vidhana Soudha. Film screenings will be held at 11 screens in PVR Cinemas – Orion Mall, Rajaji Nagar. The festival will showcase more than 200 films (400 shows) from around 60 countries under various categories.

The festival promises an immersive cinematic experience, bringing world-class films to the heart of Bengaluru.

The Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) is renowned for its thematic representation of films, showcasing meaningful cinema that resonates with global audiences. Continuing this tradition, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has suggested and announced the theme for the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival as 'Universal Peace in Diversity'.

Individuals aged 18 years and above are eligible to register as delegates. Delegate registration fee is Rs 800 for general public and Rs 400 for film industry professionals, film society members, students & senior citizens.

Registered delegates can collect their delegate passes from any of the following locations starting from February 18 from Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy, Nandini Layout, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, Shivananda Circle, Gandhinagar.

Matrimonial status disputes to be addressed only in family court

The Kalaburagi bench of the Karnataka High Court has ruled that any dispute concerning matrimonial status must be addressed exclusively in family court, regardless of the nature of relief sought.

Justices S Sunil Dutt Yadav and Rajesh Rai K issued this verdict whilst directing the reinstatement of a case filed by Arjun, a Kalaburagi-based social worker.

Arjun had filed a petition in the Kalaburagi family court seeking confirmation that Sushilabai was not his lawful wife and her two daughters were not his offspring. He argued that Sushilabai had wrongly claimed to have wed him on October 10, 1987.

The petition also mentioned that Sushilabai had a previous marriage with Bhagavantharaya Kalshetty, with whom she had two daughters. Their marriage was reportedly dissolved through mutual consent under Section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act.

The family court declined to hear the case on February 27, 2023, stating it lacked jurisdiction under Section 7 of the Family Courts Act. The court additionally pointed out that the sought declaration was negative in nature.

The division bench, however, highlighted that Explanation (b) to Section 7 of the Family Courts Act explicitly states that cases involving matrimonial status fall under family court jurisdiction. They emphasised that the petition directly addressed legal matrimonial status.

The bench cited the Supreme Court's ruling in "Balram Yadav Vs Fulmaniya Yadav" case, confirming that family courts must handle matrimonial status disputes, whether seeking positive or negative declarations.

The high court has instructed all involved parties to present themselves before the family court on February 12 without additional notice.

Governor nod to ordinance to tackle microfinance menace

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Wednesday approved the ordinance promulgated by the Congress-led government to tackle the Microfinancing Institutions' (MFIs) menace. Confirming the development, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that the government had sent the ordinance related to microfinance along with the explanation requested by the Governor to Raj Bhavan.

"Now, the Governor has signed the ordinance," CMO stated. With this, the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025 will come into effect. The details in this regard are yet to be made official. However, it has to be seen how effective the law would be in tackling the microfinancing menace.

Earlier, the Governor had rejected the ordinance, stating that the punishment of 10 years and a fine of Rs 5 lakh is "excessive."The Governor had also suggested that the police could have used existing laws to control the situation.

This ordinance is likely to negatively impact microfinance, which in turn, will affect the poor, the Governor had opined.

Notably, the Congress-led Karnataka government then had said that it was ready to incorporate suggestions made by the Governor in connection with the Ordinance. The Congress government had delayed the issuance of the Ordinance to ensure that microfinance companies do not get an opportunity to challenge the law in court, which could result in a setback for the government. Considering the debate surrounding harassment leading to disastrous consequences in the state, the Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN) issued advertisements prominently in newspapers publishing the names of the registered MFIs regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

A series of incidents of suicides and desertion of homes are being reported from across the state, following which the state government promulgated an Ordinance to regulate the MFIs, which are not regulated by the RBI and operate without licenses.

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Action taken report: Awaited

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The news item highlighted the findings of a report by ActionAid Association, a city-based non-profit, highlighting unacceptable water quality of 15 city lakes - Bhattarahalli, Munnekolalu, Challakere, Herohalli, Lingadheeranahalli, Andrahalli, Kalena Agrahara, Iblur, Kudlu Chikkakere, Uttarahalli, Dorekere, Byrasandra, Deepanjali, Dasarahalli, and Kammagondanahalli - despite dedicated STPs.

The article underlined that STPs at these lakes are not effective in improving the lakes' conditions. While the water quality report of the STPs has all parameters conforming to the standards given by KSPCB, most of the associated lakes recorded the worst water quality possible on more than one occasion during the study period of 31 months (between 2023 and 2024).

Out of the given 15 water bodies, nine were categorised under class E on more than 4 occasions and Uttarahalli had the worst water quality on 16 occasions in KSPCB's monthly water quality report. "This points to the ineffectiveness of the treatment plants in maintaining lake water quality," noted the report by ActionAid Association.

Following the article, NGT took up a suo motu case in October 2024 and served BBMP, KSPCB, BWSSB, and Karnataka Wetland Authority, among other government agencies, with notices and instructed CPCB to file a response. However, CPCB's efforts to get details on the matter from BBMP and KSPCB have been in vain so far.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAGARJUNA Resident At No 490/A, 6th Main, 6th Cross, Vinaya Marga, Near Ganesh Temple, Siddartha Nagar Mysuru- 570011 have changed my name to NAGARJUNA KUMARSWAMY vide affidavit dated 17.01.2025 sworn before D. Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru.

I, SUHAS VS, S/o K R Vidya shankar, residing at No.963, 9th Main road, 6th Cross, Prakash Nagar, Bangalore-560021 have changed my name to SUSHANK V ATHREYAS, vide affidavit dt: 11.02.2025 before notary Natesh .D, B.lore.

I, Rajachockalingam S/O PR.Chockalingam resident of 308, Vasavi Vantage, Doddathoguru, E-City Phase 1, Bangalore 560100, have changed my minor son's name from Chokalingam Rajachockalingam to C.R.Chokkalingam for all future purpose, vide affidavit date: 11.02.2025

I, Shrunga Nagarjuna R/o. No 490/A, 6th Main, 6th Cross, Vinaya Marga, Near Ganesh Temple Siddartha Nagar Mysuru-570011 have changed my minor son's name from SVAR NAGARJUN to SVAR NAGARJUNA vide affidavit dated 17.01.2025 sworn before D. Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru.

I, Shaminder Kour Raina, D/o Jang Bhadur Singh, R/o Lake view Apartments, #72, 7th floor, Gangadhar Chetty road, Ulsoor, Bangalore - 560042, have changed my name to Shaminder Kour as per affidavit dated 26/12/2024 sworn before Notary A. S. Narayana Reddy.

I Mujeeb Rahman Erasseriapalliyalil S/O, Unneen Haji R/o Flat No: 305, Jeya Narayana Paradise, 20th Cross, 2nd A Main, Vignana Nagar, Bangalore 560075, Karnataka , India have changed my name to Mujeeb Rahman.

I, Kirubakaran G S/O, Govindan Jayraman R/o No9, 2nd Main, Gopal Reddy Layout, Doddabanaswadi, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to Kirubakaran Govindan for all purposes.

I HABBEEB UR RAHMAN NAWAB ABDULLAH S/o Abdullah Basha R/o No 18/1 1st Main Vinayakanagar Old Guddadahalli Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to HABEEBU REHMAN NAWAB ABDULLAH for all Purposes

I Krishnan Gireesaiyee S/O, Gireesa Iyer R/o Flat No 1a, 13th Cross, 1105 Shreyas Apartment, Eswara Layout, Binnamangala 2nd Stage, Indiranagar Bangalore - 560038. Karnataka have changed my name to Gireesa Iyer Krishnan.

I, Helen S Kirubakaran W/O, Kirubakaran Govindan R/o No 9, 2nd Main, Gopal Reddy Layout, Doddabanaswadi, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to Helen Solomon Kirubakaran for all purposes.

I, Rajachockalingam S/O PR.Chockalingam resident of 308, Vasavi Vantage, Doddathoguru, E-City Phase 1, Bangalore 560100, have changed my minor daughter's name from Varna Nacchammai Rajachockalingam to C.R.Varna Naatchammai for all future purpose, vide affidavit date: 11.02.2025

I GANESH P V, R/at 15/1,15th cross,Kuvempu Road,Vignan Nagar,Bengaluru 560075 have changed my minor son name from VAIBHAV PARAMPALLI GANESH HERLE to PARAMPALLI VAIBHAV HERLE vide affidavit dated 08.02.2025 before notary B.S.PADMAPRASAD, Bengaluru

I, Sunil K S/o, Krishnamurthy KV R/o Harjenahalli, Kurgal, Kolar 563101 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar K for all purposes.

I Sam Samuel S/O, Cherukara Samuel Samuel R/o Maple Manor, No 1 Artillery Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore - 560008. Karnataka have changed my name to Cherukara Sam Samuel.

I, Mohan Sudhir Vadhkad S/o narayan Kutti Vadakedath R/o #21 Ramaiah nagar Opp gaana Apts Kumarswamy layout B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Mohan Sudhir Vadakedath

I GANESH P V, R/at 15/1,15th cross,Kuvempu Road,Vignan Nagar,Bengaluru 560075 have changed my minor daughter name from VIBHA GANESH PARAMPALLI to VIBHA P HERLE vide affidavit dated 08.02.2025 before notary B.S.PADMAPRASAD, Bengaluru

I, Sunil VS, S/o Ningappa Garagad, Plot No. 236, Buda scheme No.13, near buda complex, TV center Belgaum, Karnataka-590010 have changed my name to Sunil Garagad, vide affidavit dt: 12.02.2025 before notary Ravi, Bangalore.

I Srujani Mandapati W/O, Mouli Varma Jampana R/o No 24, Near Nitte Meenakshi College, Manchanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064. Karnataka have changed my name to Jampana Srujani.

I, Shankara Puttaiah S/O, Puttaiah R/o No 1/3 Rangamma Garden, Psk Naidu Road, Doddi Gunta Cox Town, Fraser Town, Bangalore 560005. have changed my name to Shankar P for all purposes.

I, Mahamed Jilan R/o No.7, 2nd Main, kambaiah Layout, near SRS Road, Peenya, Bengaluru 560058 have changed my name to Mohammed Jeelan Affidavit Dt.12/02/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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HEALTH TIP: Frequent exercise improves circulation and lowers stress hormones, which is good for skin and hair

Many women may have a deficiency in calcium and vitamin D, which can impair bone health and repair

BangaloreMirror | 9
Thursday, February 13, 2025
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GET SET, GLOW

How to ensure your skin retains its natural lustre

Natural radiance is a key indication of good and healthy skin. However, factors such as busy lifestyles, rigorous work schedules, insufficient sleep, lack of healthy food, pollution, damaging sun rays (UVA/UVB), excessive smoking, and alcohol use can cause your skin to become dull and dry. All of these things are a part of your existence, and you can't get away from them. You can, however, prevent them. While you cannot stop the ageing process, you can certainly decrease the loss of shine and lustre from your skin. Here's how.

Homemade DIY beauty recipes and easy preventative advice come in handy in this situation because they are natural and easier alternatives to cosmetic items. We've split down these ways to keep your skin shining into home treatments and a diet that you should stick to. Keep reading to find out how you can achieve gorgeous skin at home.

What is CTM? Is It Helpful To Maintain Glowing Skin?

A CTM regimen is an immensely trusted beauty practice that stands for cleansing, toning, and moisturising. This is a simple yet effective routine that begins with a cleanser to remove dirt and pollutants from your face. Toning is then used to restore the skin's normal pH level. Finally, the skin is slathered with a moisturiser to keep the skin hydrated for an extended period of time. To truly boost this practise, apply sunscreen to protect the skin from the sun's damaging UVA and UVB rays.

While most individuals are aware of the CTM regimen, many do not adhere to it on a daily basis. However, it is critical for your skin's luminosity, health, and freshness that you not only use it every day but also twice a day. The first should be done first thing in the morning, and the second should be done shortly before retiring to bed. Trust us when we say that following this easy regimen in the exact order will completely alter your skin.

Is It Important To Stay Hydrated For Glowing Skin?

Given that our bodies are made up of more than 60% water, it should come as no surprise that water is one of our body's most essential sources of energy. The human body requires adequate hydration to carry out vital activities necessary for living. Hydration aids in maintaining a normal body temperature, lubricating joints, preserving the spinal cord and other delicate tissues, and removing waste through urine, sweat, and bowel movements. As a result, while water is highly vital in sustaining the general health of the human body, it also plays an important function in nourishing the skin.

A skin barrier prevents water from evaporating in the superficial skin. Dry skin (dry and flaky to the touch) and dehydrated skin (doesn't bounce back fast when pinched) can be caused by a loss of water-holding molecules and a disruption in the skin's barrier function. It is determined by heredity, solar exposure, and lifestyle behaviours like food, nutrition, sleep, smoking, and alcohol use, as well as sun exposure and the use of skincare products. The pace at which skin cells develop and shed is also affected by moisture. Keeping the skin hydrated can also assist to slow down the ageing process since hydration helps to retain the skin's suppleness, which aids in the reduction of visible symptoms of premature ageing and wrinkles.

Dehydration causes the skin to become dry, tight, and flaking. Dry skin is more prone to wrinkling and has less resilience. Furthermore, the skin's general tone and colour seem uneven, and fine wrinkles are more visible. Dehydration affects the entire body, which means that critical organs such as the liver, brain, heart, kidneys, and lungs take precedence over the skin. Staying hydrated is the best way to combat this.

How Does Exercising Lead To Healthy Skin?

The skin is the largest organ in your body. And, just as exercise maintains other organs in fighting shape, such as the heart, it also improves the skin's capacity to protect against ageing and other harm. According to a study at McMaster University in Ontario, the minute your heart starts pumping quicker, your muscles pump out more of a protein (IL-15) that drives skin cells' mitochondria to act younger — over time, this can make skin 25 years younger at the microscopic level. So, go, sweat it out, now!

Does Exfoliation Help Your Skin Glow?

Though most of us recognise the importance of washing our faces, exfoliation is one of those tasks that many people overlook, misinterpret, or, worse, overdo. It might be perplexing because there are so many different techniques to exfoliate and products to choose from. However, after you've figured it out and learned how to exfoliate properly, you'll notice better radiance and texture that washing alone cannot deliver.

There are two kinds of exfoliation: physical and chemical. It is important to understand which type works for you and your skin type. It is very important to not exfoliate more than 2-3 times a week, and also moisturise your face after exfoliating. Also, never, ever forget to wear sunscreen after exfoliating because exfoliation can make your skin more susceptible to sun damage.

Is Vitamin C Helpful To Make Your Skin Glow?

Vitamin C therapy on a daily basis can help almost any skin type. After only a few uses, the antioxidant's brightening, firming, smoothing, and nourishing benefits make skin significantly more luminous. Adding vitamin C to your regimen will provide you with both immediate and long-term effects, whether you're prone to breakouts, dry skin, or simply want to maintain your beautiful complexion.

Because vitamin C is moderately exfoliating, it can help lighten the appearance of dark spots, level skin tone, and brighten and plump skin, making wrinkles appear less noticeable.

Facial Massages For Glowing Skin

A face massage offers many more advantages than you would imagine. It not only relieves tension, but also decreases the appearance of wrinkles and fine lines, stimulates blood circulation, tightens skin, and gives your face a natural shine. Incorporating a regular face massage into your daily skincare routine will assist your skincare products to perform better. Make sure to be gentle and not pull on your skin too much while massaging your face. Also, make sure to apply some sort of oil or serum on your face beforehand for easier movement.

Getting Enough Sleep Is The Biggest Glowing Skin Secret

Last but not the least, it is very important to get enough shut-eye if you want clear, glowing skin. To begin with, you should realise that sleep is the period when your body restores itself. This applies to your epidermis just as much as it does to your brain or muscles. During sleep, your skin's blood flow rises, and the organ rebuilds collagen and repairs UV-induced damage, resulting in less wrinkles and age spots. **—Femina**

All you need to know about...

Passive smoking

Dangerous to kids

A second-hand or passive exposure to cigarette smoke could change how children's genes express themselves, similar to that in active smokers, thereby making them more vulnerable to disease as adults, according to a study.

Reduce second-hand smoke

The findings, published in the journal Environment International, highlighted why children's exposure to second-hand smoke needs to be reduced.

"Our study shows that second-hand smoke during childhood leaves its mark at the molecular level and can alter the expression of genes that influence disease susceptibility in adulthood", first author Marta Cosin-Tomàs, a researcher at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), said.

Affects gene expression

While genes in one's DNA act as an instruction manual for the body, environmental factors, such as tobacco smoke, can affect 'gene expression', or how the manual is read.

Gene expression is how information in a gene translates into observable behaviour. 'DNA methylation' is one of the main processes involved that can turn a gene 'on' or 'off'.

In certain cases, DNA methylation can silence specific genes and contribute to disease development.

Same as active smoking

"The results suggest that second-hand smoke in childhood leads to epigenetic changes (changes in gene expression) similar to those observed with intrauterine exposure to tobacco or active smoking," senior author Mariona Bustamante, an ISGlobal researcher, said.

"This underlines the urgency of implementing comprehensive measures to reduce childhood exposure to tobacco smoke, both at home and indoors," Bustamante said. **—PTI**

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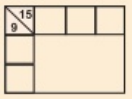
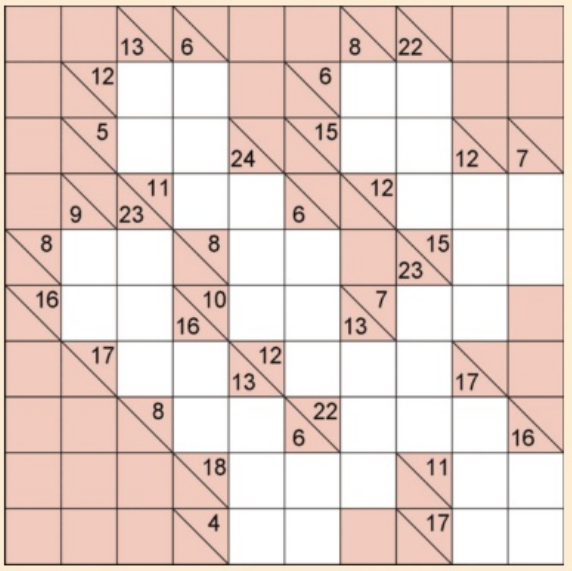
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

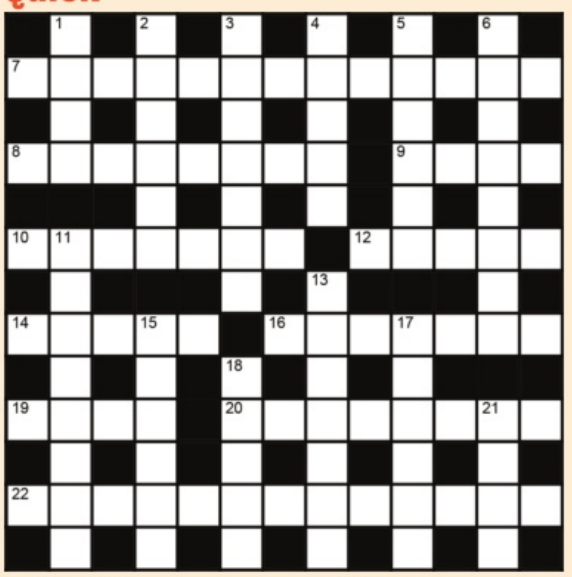


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Late shehnai maestro from Varanasi (9,4)
8 Wanted, needed or necessitated (8)
9 ___ scale : scale of hardness in mineralogy? (4)
10 An infectious fever (7)
12 Managed but not very successfully? (3,2)
14 Unit of magnetic flux (5)
16 Dearth (7)
19 Soybean product (4)
20 Hanging in the air (8)
22 Compared to indicate similarity? (4,1,8)

DOWN

1 Beget (4)
2 French lovers (6)
3 Made indistinct (7)
4 Small groups of musicians (5)
5 With hands on hips (6)
6 Vice (3,5)
11 Captivates or bewitches (8)
13 South Indian river–"vary cue" anagram (7)
15 Parrot's outburst (6)
17 Ring or band (6)
18 Cuts with an axe (5)
21 Christmas (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS U

XSUB ZHLI XSEB MWSXB ZHL WOUB SG. XSEB SA O ACXBRKSK FSEG, GWBIB SA RHGWSRF AYOXX OVHLG SG.

Linemaro

I would love to get stuck in the elevator with you

Mindchow

Relationships start with 'Can we talk' and end with 'We need to talk'

Joke of the day

The only exercise I have done this month is running out of money

Loop

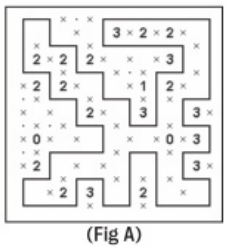
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

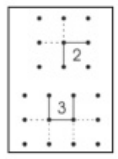
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

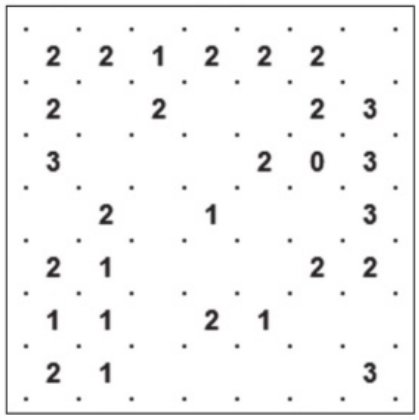
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



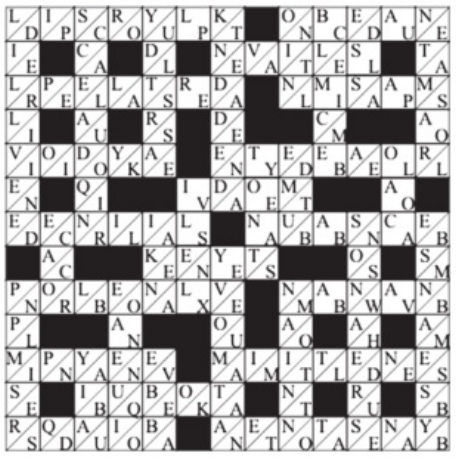
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



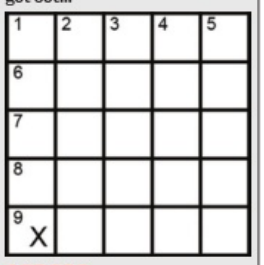
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 A punt; 6 Nerve;
7 Ran be; 8 Envoi;
9 A lynx

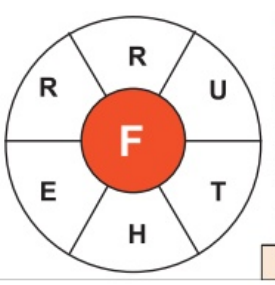
DOWN

1 Ox nub; 2 Rev NY;
3 I lava; 4 Panne;
5 Terne

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last hexagon?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

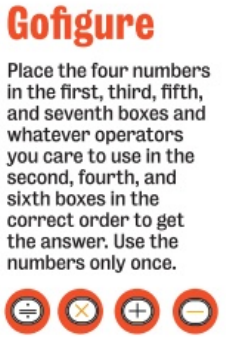
SudokuChallenge

7	8		6		5		1	3
6			2		4			5
		1	8		3	5		
	4						6	
		6	5		1	2		
5			3		2			4
4	2		7		9		5	8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



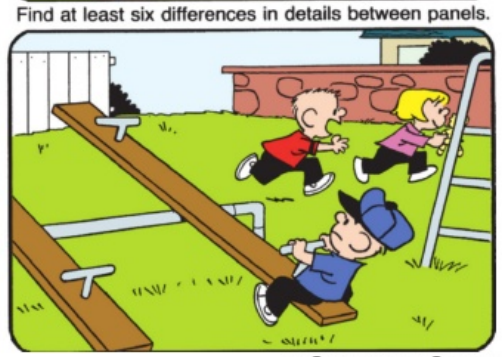
Easy = 9
2 7 7 7

Medium = 38
1 2 4 9

Hard = 13
6 8 9 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



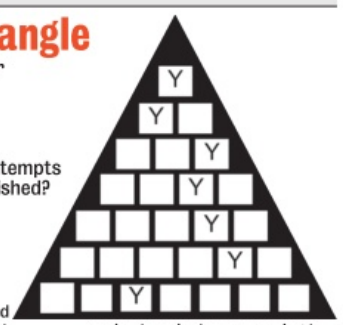
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Foot is not showing. 3. Handle is moved. 4. Stripe is added to sleeve. 5. Bow is missing. 6. Wall is longer.

Riddler

Like a thief that isn't seen but heard Who pilfers trinkets light. Steals your hat right off your head Whether day or night. Holds no knife and wields no bow But sometimes known to bite. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Second last letter
2 Yes, slang
3 Opine out loud
4 Beams of light
5 Unravels
6 Raids or initial attempts
7 Suffers or is punished? (4,3)

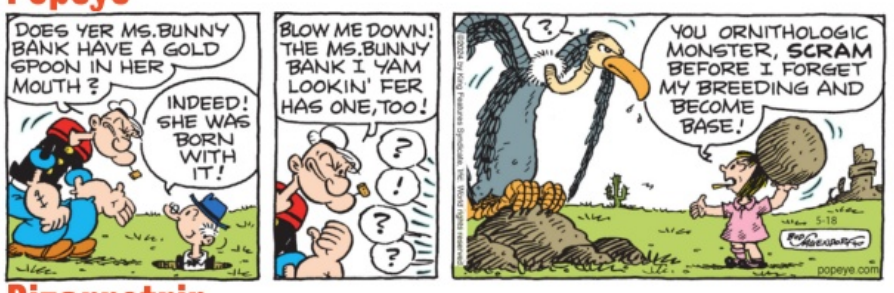


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

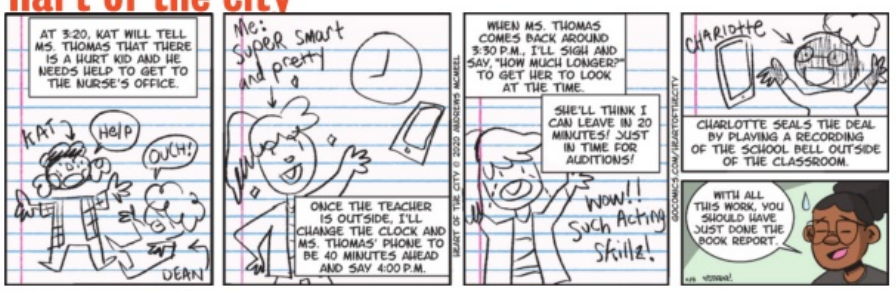

DOES YER MS.BUNNY BANK HAVE A GOLD SPOON IN HER MOUTH ?
INDEED! SHE WAS BORN WITH IT!
BLOW ME DOWN! THE MS.BUNNY BANK I YAM LOOKIN' FER HAS ONE,TOO!
YOU ORNITHOLOGIC MONSTER, SCRAM BEFORE I FORGET MY BREEDING AND BECOME BASE!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

I am sorry I used that word. I had forgotten that you are afraid of contractions.
APOSTROPHOBIA
©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS
BIZARRO.COM Dist by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


AT 3:20, KAT WILL TELL MS. THOMAS THAT THERE IS A HURT KID AND HE NEEDS HELP TO GET TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
KAT
HELP
OUCH!
DEAN
Me: super smart and pretty
ONCE THE TEACHER IS OUTSIDE, I'LL CHANGE THE CLOCK AND MS. THOMAS' PHONE TO BE 40 MINUTES AHEAD AND SAY 4:00 P.M.
WHEN MS. THOMAS COMES BACK AROUND 3:30 P.M., I'LL SIGH AND SAY, "HOW MUCH LONGER?" TO GET HER TO LOOK AT THE TIME.
SHE'LL THINK I CAN LEAVE IN 20 MINUTES! JUST IN TIME FOR AUDITIONS!
WOW!! Such Acting Skillz!
CHARLOTTE
CHARLOTTE SEALS THE DEAL BY PLAYING A RECORDING OF THE SCHOOL BELL OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM.
WITH ALL THIS WORK, YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST DONE THE BOOK REPORT.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2020 ANDREWS MCMEEL
©GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

I'M HERE TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER JOB.
DO YOU HAVE A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE?
NO... BUT I'VE GOT THIS 'GET OUT OF JAIL FREE' CARD.
CLOSE ENOUGH!
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BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books
11-8

Mutts

SHELTER STORIES
"SHEMP"
WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS?
MAYBE YOU'LL GO TO YOUR SHELTER AND GET A MATURE DOG WHO'LL MAKE YOUR BLUES DISAPPEAR !!!
HOW'S THAT FOR TRICKS!
mutts.com
11-8

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
The Moon's blessings bring stability, and things that seemed messy are now under control. Your boss may appreciate your performance, leading to new responsibilities and possible promotion. Stuck financial matters may finally be resolved, boosting your savings. Good news regarding legal matters may come your way, and issues with siblings are likely to be resolved.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Positive news related to your job may arrive, opening up new opportunities. You might consider higher studies to advance your career. Attending motivational events may uplift your spirits. Singles may hear good news about marriage, while couples could receive joyful news regarding childbirth.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You might consider relocating, but it's best to postpone any decisions regarding migration for now. Avoid business investments today. However, by evening, the situation will improve, and an elder's guidance may help you manage difficulties effectively.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your patience is strong today, and meditation may enhance your focus, helping you complete tasks efficiently. Subordinates will support you, leading to timely project completion. Short work-related trips may arise, and you may meet an influential person who can help expand your business.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may indulge in purchasing creative or artistic pieces to renovate your home, enhancing your social status. Implementing new strategies in your family business could yield profits in the near future. Social gatherings and family events may keep you occupied.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A day filled with energy and good health awaits you. You will enjoy your work but should avoid being too blunt in your conversations. Arguments over trivial matters could lead to family disputes. Job seekers may find promising opportunities, and lovebirds should steer clear of unnecessary debates.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The Moon's influence may bring feelings of restlessness and impatience. You may struggle to concentrate on your tasks, leading to dissatisfaction. Responsibilities might feel overwhelming, and productivity could be low. Take things slowly and focus on self-care.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Work-related stress may ease, allowing you to focus better. Your earnings are likely to turn into profits, and long-term investments may look promising. An overseas work opportunity could bring financial benefits in the future. Singles may find a soulmate, and students may receive good academic news.

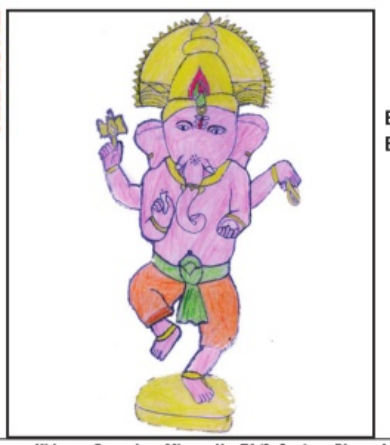
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
With the Moon in a favourable position, you will excel in your professional life. Implementing business strategies will be easier with the support of subordinates. Intellectual and financial investments may start yielding profits, boosting your confidence. Wisdom will be your key to success today.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Spirituality may bring you inner peace and happiness. You may feel drawn to religious or philosophical pursuits. A visit to a sacred place may be on your mind. Interest in occult sciences may deepen. Be cautious about whom you share your thoughts with, as misunderstandings or conspiracies could arise.

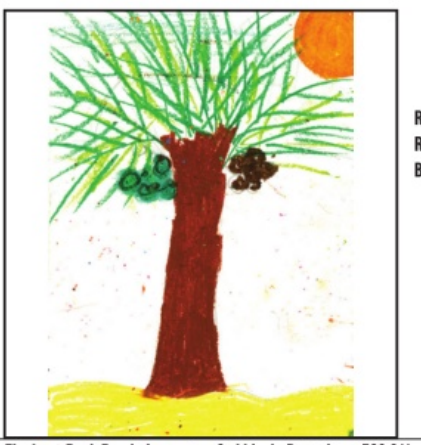
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A feeling of dullness and restlessness may affect your patience. You may feel drawn to occult sciences for peace of mind. Trusting your intuition before making important decisions is advisable. Meditation and chanting mantras could help you gain deep knowledge and improve focus.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The Moon's blessings enhance your inner strength. New opportunities for business or career growth may arise, leading to future financial gains. Couples may receive good news regarding childbirth. Lovebirds should communicate openly to maintain harmony in their relationship.

KIDZONE



Elanguvan S, Bengaluru



Radhika Ramdas, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
E vs M = 6/7 vs 5/9 = (6 x 9)/ (7 x 9) vs (5 x 7)/(9 x 7) = 54/63 vs 35/63
54/63 > 35/63
English is better score.

BULL'S EYE
fret, FURTHER, heft, turf

STRIKE OUT

S	Q	U	I	B	N	E	O	T	E	N	Y			
D	I	S	R	U	P	T	O	C	E	A	N			
E	A	L	E	V	I	L	S	A						
R	E	L	A	T	E	D	L	I	S	P	S			
I	A	R	D	M	A									
V	O	D	K	A	E	Y	E	B	A	L	L			
E	I	I	D	E	M	A								
D	E	N	I	A	L	N	U	A	N	C	E			
C	K	E	Y	S	O	M								
P	O	L	E	A	X	E	N	A	W	A	B			
L	N	O	H	A										
T	O	F	U	H	O	V	E	R	I	N	G			
M	G	C	U	I										
G	A	U	S	S	P	A	U	C	I	T	Y			
N	D	C	I											
M	E	A	S	L	E	S	G	O	T	B	Y			
R	R	S	B	A										
R	E	O	U	I	R	E	D	M	O	H	S			
B	I	S	M	I	L	L	A	H	K	H	A	N		

QUICK

S	K	S	Y	E	L									
D	R	E	W	A	P	A	R	A	L	L	E	L		
U	A	O	E	C	O									
T	O	F	H	O	V	E	R	I	N	G				
M	G	C	U	I										
G	A	U	S	S	P	A	U	C	I	T	Y			
N	D	C	I											
M	E	A	S	L	E	S	G	O	T	B	Y			
R	R	S	B	A										
R	E	O	U	I	R	E	D	M	O	H	S			
B	I	S	M	I	L	L	A	H	K	H	A	N		

FAST FIVE

U	N	A	P	T
N	E	V	E	R
B	R	A	N	E
O	V	I	N	E
X	Y	L	A	N

RIDDLER
Wind

MENSA PUZZLE
Y, From left to right, the numerical value of the letters represents the sequence of multiples of 5, from 5 to 25.

QUOTE UNCODE
Live your life while you have it. Life is a splendid gift, there is nothing small about it.

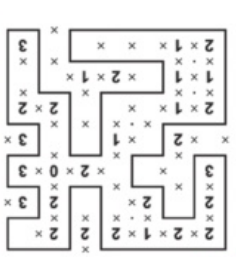
SUDOKU

7	8	2	6	9	5	4	1	3
3	5	4	1	7	8	9	2	6
6	1	9	2	3	4	8	7	5
5	6	7	3	8	2	1	9	4
9	3	6	5	4	1	2	8	7
8	4	5	9	2	7	3	6	1
2	7	1	8	6	3	5	4	9
1	9	8	4	5	6	7	3	2
4	2	3	7	1	9	6	5	8

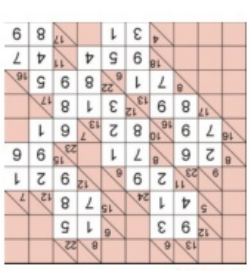
ALPHA TRIANGLE
Y, Ya, Say, Rays, Frays, Forays, Pays for.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 – 7 + 7 + 2 = 9
Medium
9 x 4 + 2 x 1 = 38
Hard
6 – 8 + 9 + 6 = 13

LOOP



KAKURO



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₹25 600*

Downpayment
₹2 60 000*

28 YEARS Hyundai India

Trust of over 1.1 Mn+ CRETA owners and counting

Driving range up to 473 km per full charge**

0 to 100 km/h in 7.9s^

51.4 kWh battery pack

Hyundai's global EV technology

All-weather electric SUV

Fast charging: 10% to 80% in 58 min@@

V2L: Power your appliances inside and outside#

Smart connected home charger

In-car Payment

Hyundai Bluelink (70+ connected car features)

Over 10 000 EV charging points mapped on myHyundai app

8 Years / 1 60 000 km battery warranty###

HYUNDAI

my Hyundai app | Hyundai Click to Buy | 3 YEAR Unlimited Kilometer Warranty* | UPTO 7 YEARS Extended Warranty* | 8 YEAR 1 60 000 km Battery Warranty### | 3 YEAR Road Side Assistance (RSA)* | UPTO 5 YEARS Shield of Trust Running Repair Package* | UPTO 5 YEARS Shield of Trust Super Maintenance Package*

*Ex-showroom price for Executive trim (42 kWh battery pack) *T&C apply. Features and specifications shown in pictures may not be part of standard fitment and the same may vary from variant to variant. For detailed Terms & Conditions of Extended Warranty & Shield of Trust/Super kindly visit Hyundai Motor India website. www.hyundaiindia.co.in. **Range as per AIS 040 (Rev.1) (km) ARAI certification under controlled conditions for 51.4 kWh new battery pack. ^Basis HMIL internal testing under controlled conditions for 51.4 kWh new battery pack. ##Applicable for 42 kWh battery pack. @@Applicable for 51.4 kWh and 42 kWh battery packs.***Charging time is dependent upon multiple factors including charger specification, ambient temperature, uninterrupted power supply, etc. ~For 51.4 kWh new battery pack. ~~Hyundai SmartSense, the Advanced Driver Assistance System is not a substitute for safe and attentive driving. Its effectiveness depends on various factors. Availability of Hyundai SmartSense features may differ by variants. Refer owners manual for more details.. #For V2L outside, the gun would be available as an accessory on payable basis. For creative representation purpose only. ^^Functionality of active air flaps is dependent on multiple factors. ^^^Compatible with select smartphones and smartwatches, please visit https://cretaelectric.hyundai.co.in/ for more details. ###Battery warranty up to 8 years or 1 60 000 km whichever occurs earlier. Finance at the sole discretion of financier. Above mentioned EMI is for a tenure of 8 years.

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